

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

produced a few interesting and many pitiful types. *The* extensive cemeteries of the colony bear eloquent testimony to the many youthful failures. The country presented too many psychological, climatic, and economic obstacles to permit more than a few outstanding successes.

Those who have come nowadays to be called colonial sharks have followed as their spiritual sires the soldiers of fortune who came with the occupation, or in its wake. The opening of a new land has attracted men of eminently self-reliant qualities. They were picturesque, impatient, and unruly. Neither the beauties of the landscape nor the culture of the East meant anything to them. They came to their fortunes—all else was extraneous. It never occurred to them that they might learn something from the country. The natives were more interesting than the scenery and important only as labour. If these men were egoistic and undisciplined, they were also alive and intelligent. Certain Governors realized their potential utility to the colony, despite their moral and intellectual inferiority. Others saw them only as unscrupulous adventurers, often guilty of inexcusable violence, a menace to the social order. This antipathy of the bourgeoisie for the adventurer was the basis of the functionary-colonist. The bourgeois elements triumphed in proportion as the colony increased in importance. Most of the conquistadors were tamed by the law itself, rather than steam-rollered into submission by the representatives of law and order. They had to bow their heads and accept routine, and even ask for government jobs. In time they became as incapable of initiative as the meekest born functionary. But the old distrust crops out from time to time. Rumours are

rife certain colonists were forced to leave
France because of
dark past. When colonials are guilty of hysteria or
lawlessness
is an outburst of bourgeois disapproval or complacent
duckings
doubtful ocfgaou Yet these men had been wiling to
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comfortable security
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created the

 atmosphere which has not yet wholly
under the of iwtifgeols principles. Many may still
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sight

 — & Marseille harlot—could
cause a stampede

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